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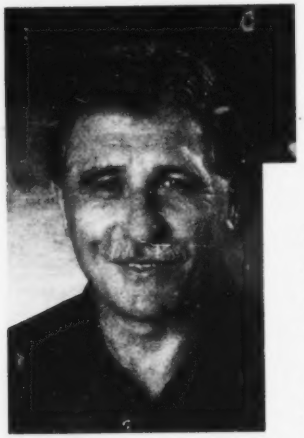


February 2007

Deputy Premier,

Minister of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development

In 2006, Saskatchewan reached what economists refer to as "full employment." The year marked an all time high for employment levels in Saskatchewan, and saw increased youth and Aboriginal employment. 2006 was also the fourth year in a row that we've set annual job records.

The level of confidence in our economy has never been stronger in Saskatchewan's history. In 2006, we hit another record level, with private investment estimated at $6.6 billion. Now, not one, but two major companies have plans to build large oilseed crushing plants in east-central Saskatchewan. The plants will each buy about 850,000 tonnes of canola per year (about two million acres of production), creating an increased demand for canola seed and greater producer returns, new jobs in the region and economic spin-offs in the trucking, mechanics, service and retail sectors.

In addition, StatsCan is reporting evidence of something that has been talked about for a while – people are choosing Saskatchewan as a place to call home. It's the "Saskatchewan advantage," including diversified work opportunities, affordable real estate, and ease of getting to work and back, that is attracting people to the province. The Province recently unveiled a marketing campaign directly aimed at convincing road-weary, mortgage-laden, time-squeezed Albertans to come, or come home, to Saskatchewan.

We're working to spread our province's success story and ensure the word is out – Saskatchewan is the best place to live, work and raise a family – but some things speak for themselves. Record employment levels, strong private investment, and the return of many former residents are all indicators of an economy and a province that is on a roll, and there are no signs of slowing down.

Saskatchewan's red-hot economy is creating even more job opportunities for the province, and job growth into 2007 is expected to see the largest increase since the 1970s. Our economy continues to be one of the most dynamic around, and the Government of Saskatchewan is proud to partner with REDAs, businesses, communities, Aboriginal people, youth, entrepreneurs, co-operatives and economic development agencies to nurture the vitality that already exists in Saskatchewan and help our people seize the many opportunities that this province offers.

Clay Serby

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON "GROWING FROM WITHIN"

From June 4-8, 2007, Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI) will hold its 14th annual conference in Regina, built around the central theme "Growing from Within: *Thinking Regionally – Succeeding Globally*." The conference program features six prominent keynote speakers, plus breakout sessions covering a wide range of topics related to the conference theme under three streams: Building on Competitive Advantages; Fostering a Culture of Entrepreneurship and Innovation; and Engaging Leadership and Effective Governance.

"The conference will discuss the latest trends and approaches to building the next-generation economy," states conference co-chair Doug Howorko, who is Manager of Business Retention and Expansion for Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development (RECD). "Participants will learn about new strategies designed to retain and expand existing businesses, and to launch a permanent change in how businesses, communities, governments and institutions do business together, now and in the future. They must begin to see each other as economic partners that leverage resources, build critical mass and depend on one another to prosper."

Howorko says the conference will bring together hundreds of economic development leaders for intense and valuable learning opportunities, to participate in stimulating networking events where innovative ideas and best practices will be shared. He adds that community leaders will learn how to better position their communities to compete in the global marketplace, and how to build private and public-sector partnerships and alliances as a means to improve their communities' business climate. "New ways of thinking and action are needed to achieve economic prosperity in the new global economy, and that's what this international conference is about," Howorko concludes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Doug Howorko, RECD, at 787-2201, or
- Visit www.brei.org.

BREI Conference Highlights, June 4-8, 2007, Regina

- **KEYNOTE – Jayson Myers,** Canada, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association: The Future of Industry in a Global Market
- **KEYNOTE – Don Lenihan,** Canada, Crossing Borders National Council: Break on Through – Communities and the New Economy
- **KEYNOTE – James Gollub,** United States, ICF International: Collaborative Solutions to Build High Performing Regions
- **KEYNOTE – Rebecca Ryan,** United States, Next Generation Consulting: Brain Drain – How to Attract and Retain the Next Generation of Talent
- **KEYNOTE – Peter Kenyon,** Australia, Bank of I.D.E.A.S: Business Retention and Expansion From Down Under
- **KEYNOTE – Ifor Ffowcs-Williams,** New Zealand, Cluster Navigators: Industry Cluster Development

ACRE REPORTS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, LAUNCHES NEXT PHASE OF WORK

(From left) Deputy Premier Clay Serby, ACRE Co-Chair Audrey Horkoff and committee members launch Phase 3 of ACRE's work.

The Action Committee on the Rural Economy (ACRE) says the provincial government has made significant progress on the 220 recommendations it has made to help promote rural economic development across the province.

ACRE's Monitoring Committee was formed to hold government accountable by examining the government's response to each ACRE recommendation. The committee's report found that the Province of Saskatchewan has dealt with almost two-thirds – or 143 – of ACRE's recommendations to their satisfaction, and has begun work to implement the remaining 77. These recommendations have been grouped into seven key areas that ACRE considers to be important foundations for future growth in the province: immigration, co-ordination, infrastructure, taxation, business and labour, Crown land use and value-added agriculture.

Following the release of the Monitoring Committee report, ACRE launched Phase III of its work by forming two new subcommittees. These subcommittees will focus on defining and enhancing community and developing small business and entrepreneurship. Both areas of study will place attention on the increasingly important role played by Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan's economy and workforce. Guy Lonechild and Dick DeRyk will co-chair the Community Sub-Committee, while Germain Dauk and Wanda Wolf will co-chair the Business Sub-Committee.

ACRE will also continue to monitor progress on the remaining recommendations.

"ACRE's new focus on community, business and entrepreneurship, and on engagement of the Aboriginal community, will further help us to improve our local economies, collaborate as regions and make our towns and regions even better places to live, work and invest," explained ACRE Co-Chair Audrey Horkoff.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development Clay Serby said he looks forward to ACRE's continued good work. "We have seen real, tangible and positive changes in rural Saskatchewan as a result of ACRE's recommendations. Together, we are strengthening and growing the province's economy and making life better for Saskatchewan families."

ACRE was created in 2000 to advise the provincial government on how to promote economic development in rural Saskatchewan. Made up of diverse people from across the province, ACRE consults widely, develops recommendations, and provides policy advice to government.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Ed Reimer, RECD Policy and Planning, at 787-3387; or
- Visit ACRE's website at www.recd.gov.sk.ca/acre/.

CANADA-SASKATCHEWAN BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE: A GREAT *BUSINESS INFOSOURCE*

Information officers at the CSBSC help clients find answers to their business questions.

While the Canada-Saskatchewan Business Service Centre is called a "single window" service, that's something of a misnomer. Business people seeking information and advice about starting or operating a business can reach the Centre's *business infosource* service by phone, fax, e-mail, traditional mail and over the Internet, at www.cbsc.org/sask. The Centre, which is based out of Saskatoon, also operates 16 Regional Access Sites around the province where entrepreneurs can tap into *business infosource*.

The CSBSC is a partnership of the federal and provincial governments. This is what makes *business infosource* a "single window" for access to general and specialized information, and to a network of experts across the country. The Centre's services have become indispensable tools for many business people, handling over 850,000 requests for business information in 2005-06.

Late last year, when Kevin Lu was considering opening an Asian grocery store, he paid a visit to business infosource in Saskatoon. "I was very pleased with the information and service that was provided me," says Mr. Lu. "I was helped with our incorporation, elements of my business plan, clarification about the regulations that apply to my business, and I also received some specific advice from a Guest Advisor." Mr. Lu went on to say, "I think it would have taken much more time and frustration to open my business without the one stop I made at *business infosource*." Lu's Market Ltd. opened for business in the summer of 2006.

Small business owners and new entrepreneurs can access a range of information services from CSBSC, and business experts are always ready to discuss individual business needs. There is no charge for business infosource services, and all inquiries are confidential. Some of the key services available from business infosource are:

- Up-to-date information and referral to approximately 40 federal and 68 provincial departments and agencies
- General business information and research consultation
- Business and trade database/business information library
- Front-line and referral service for export and trade related inquiries for Team Canada Inc. and Trade Team Saskatchewan
- Guest Advisor Program
- Seminars and workshops for small business and entrepreneurs
- Online business products, including the Interactive Business Planner, Business Startup Assistant, On-line Small Business Workshop and Interactive Export Planner

The Centre has also developed the Aboriginal Business Service Network, an initiative to provide information and business tools to support Aboriginal people considering business opportunities. The ABSN Partner network is linked to the CSBSC website, www.cbsc.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact the Canada-Saskatchewan Business Service Centre at 956-2323 or call toll-free 1-800-667-4374;
- Visit www.cbsc.org/sask; or
- E-mail saskatchewan@cbsc.ic.gc.ca

Celebrate REDA Week March 4 to 10

Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDAs) will be celebrated for their achievements during REDA Week in Saskatchewan, March 4 to 10.

With the right mix of community involvement, leadership, private sector engagement and government support, REDAs exemplify a grassroots, community-led approach to economic development. Saskatchewan's 28 REDAs represent and promote collaboration among local governments, businesses, communities, co-operatives, Aboriginal people, youth, and other economic development organizations.

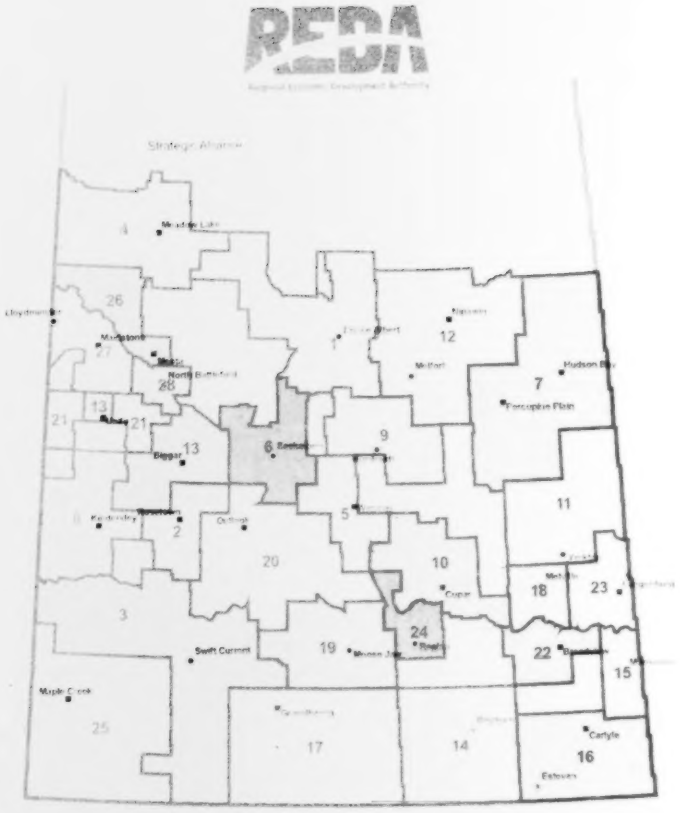
"REDAs put business first, by bringing together communities and individuals to harness the economic potential of their regions, and that gives Saskatchewan a distinct advantage for regional growth," Deputy Premier and Regional Economic and Co-operative Development Minister Clay Serby said. "By fostering investment and job creation, our REDAs are leading the way to a thriving, diverse economy and enhancing quality of life."

REDAs are the Government of Saskatchewan's primary partner for economic development in the province. The authorities receive cost-shared funding, training and mentorship support from the Department of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development.

"The Province looks forward to partnering with REDAs to build a more prosperous Saskatchewan well into the future," Serby said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development at 1-800-265-2001; or visit www.recd.gov.sk.ca



1. Prince Albert	953-4888	16. Cornerstone	453-6097
2. Entrepreneurs 2000	882-1300	17. Red Coat	648-3525
3. Southwest	778-4240	18. South Parkland	728-6878
4. Northwest	236-2407	19. Moose Jaw	693-7335
5. Long Lake	946-2223	20. Mid Sask	867-9553
6. Saskatoon	664-0723	21. Border/	
7. Etomami	278-2311	Strategic Alliance	446-7506
8. West Central	463-1997	22. Mainline	696-2550
9. Carlton Trail	682-2631	23. Yellowhead	743-5177
10. Touchwood	723-4688	24. Regina	522-0227
11. Good Spirit	783-7332	25. Cypress Hills	662-4299
12. North East	862-6732	26. Prairie to Pine	892-2544
13. Midwest	948-2295	27. Big Gully/	
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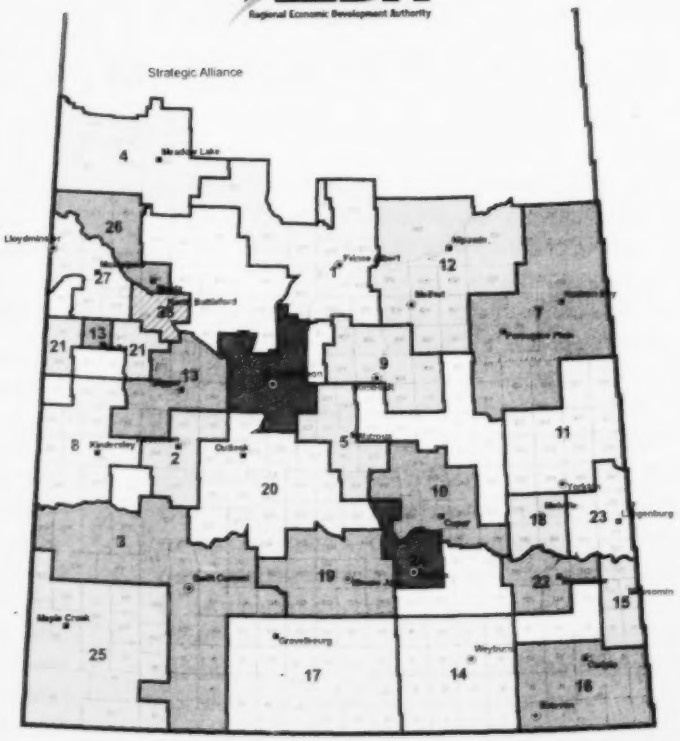
REDA
Regional Economic Development Authority



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OPPORTUNITIES BROCHURE GETS THE WORD OUT

Heather van der Breggan is a "self-proclaimed ambassador" for the City of Weyburn.

"Weyburn...the Opportunity City" is an eight-page brochure developed by the City and the South East REDA to promote Weyburn as an excellent, lower-cost place to live, work, do business, and retire. So far, more than 300 of the brochures have been distributed to residents and business people. It can also be viewed online at www.weyburn.ca.

To help get the word out, the City and the South East REDA are asking residents to do some old-fashioned networking by providing names of individuals they think might be searching for job opportunities or second careers, returning to their roots or moving closer to family or friends. The brochure is then sent to them on behalf of the person making the referral.

The brochure also includes a testimonial from "self-proclaimed ambassadors" Heather and Abraham van der Breggen, who began a family migration five years ago when they moved from Calgary back to his hometown and began spreading the word. Their daughter and two of her friends, Heather's parents and Abraham's brother have since settled in Weyburn.

Heather, who is an interior designer for a flooring store in town, is aware of couples who have bought houses and renovated them. "In Weyburn – in Saskatchewan – there are opportunities to make a living doing what you want to do," she states. "In Calgary, I didn't have time to have a meal with my family!"

"Very timely," is how Wayne Popowich, the production manager for local wire and cable manufacturer Nexans, describes the brochure. He's already used it in his effort to recruit trades people and other workers to the company. "I'm new to Weyburn myself," he adds, "and I'm continually pleasantly surprised by all that it has to offer."

Over the next year, South East REDA Manager Dylan Clarke hopes to measure the results by seeing new faces in Weyburn. "We think the brochure will go a long way in helping to achieve that," he says.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Call Linda Mack, RECD, at 637-4505;
- Call Dylan Clarke, South East REDA, at 842-8001; or
- Visit www.weyburn.ca

BULL'S-EYE! MOSSBANK'S A&J ARCHERY

Aaron Krauss, Ry Craigie, Judy Weiss and Art Weiss with two of their products: a 3-D target and cattle square.

Archery supplies and steel corral panels may not seem to have much in common, but both represent important business opportunities for Art Weiss of Mossbank. He started A&J Archery in 1997 with the help of a loan from the Small Business Loans Association (SBLA), a program administered by the local Two Lakes Rural Development Corporation.

While he was promoting A&J Archery at the Farm Progress Show, another opportunity presented itself. Weiss was approached by Morand Livestock Equipment, a manufacturer of cattle handling systems located near Edmonton. Would he be interested in selling Morand's livestock equipment? The answer was "yes," and with the help of another SBLA loan, Weiss began his next business venture.

When the shortage of welders in Alberta began to affect Morand's production, Weiss expanded into manufacturing steel gates and corral panels, employing two full-time and two part-time employees on a piecework basis.

"There's nothing like having guys who do piecework in their own shops, as long as the quality and consistency are there," says Weiss.

"I also have a local guy hauling steel in and finished products back to Morand by semi," says Weiss. "It's another local spin-off and a good opportunity for him. He's looking at an SBLA to finance his own trailer, and other guys are considering using a loan to get their own welding equipment."

Weiss recently had another SBLA loan approved, this time to buy a forklift to load the finished steel panels, which would eliminate the need to "abuse my 40-20 tractor," Weiss says with a laugh. More seriously, he adds, "You have to make do. If I had to buy everything I have now at the start, I wouldn't have started. With my truck, my tractor and the SBLA – plus help from my wife and daughter – we were able to build a good local business."

The Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) program, administered by RECD, encourages diversification of the Saskatchewan economy and supports community economic development by making funding of up to $15,000 available, through community-run organizations, to entrepreneurs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Art Weiss, A&J Archery, Mossbank, at 354-2544; or
- Contact Barb Field, Moose Jaw Regional Office, RECD, at 694-3623 for information about the SBLA program.

D&G POLYETHYLENE FINDS MARKET FOR UNIQUE PRODUCTS

Andrew Jackson and Dwayne Toovey with one of their shelters, which are in great demand by oil and gas companies.

Three years ago, D&G Polyethylene Products Limited converted the company's original 4,000 square foot facility into a metal and mould fabrication shop. D&G also added 10,500 square feet to its modern production facility. In spite of this major expansion, the company, based at Neilburg, is having difficulty keeping up with demand for its unique products.

D&G began manufacturing lightweight, durable polyethylene shelters with optional urethane insulation in 1996, and now offers products ranging from a seven-foot conical style shelter to a 16 by 48 foot modular building. With one of the largest molding ovens in western Canada, D&G can mold exceptionally large seamless products that have been well received across the four western provinces and in neighbouring U.S. states.

Oil and gas companies are major customers for the shelters, which provide welcome protection from harsh weather conditions. "We also offer optional features such as explosion-proof heaters, venting, plexi-glass windows, gas detector inspection doors and hinged roof hatches for wire line inspections," says D&G co-owner Dean Flicek.

Many customers contact D&G through its website, www.dgpolyproducts.com. The company also attracts business at major oil shows, and through print and television advertising. As a result, the company keeps about a dozen employees "extremely busy," Flicek says. D&G also participated in a business retention and expansion survey undertaken by the Big Gully REDA, an initiative designed to build on successful businesses like D&G to further increase economic activity in the area. The BRE survey can support D&G in identifying the company's strengths and potential growth opportunities.

The company has also branched out into secondary containment oilfield products, most notably a dual containment wellhead sump that contains leaks. It has been well received by the oil industry. "It's an environmentally friendly product that saves producers from high clean-up costs and gives land owners more confidence that their properties are protected from spills," Flicek says.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Grant McGillis or Dean Flicek, Co-Owners, D&G Polyethylene Products, at 823-4789 or 1-866-384-4789; or
- Contact Jan Swanson, Regional Manager, RECD, at 446-7446.

RIVER BANK CONTRIBUTING TO BETTER LIFE IN P.A.

River Bank Development Corporation is a neighbourhood development organization established in 1998 to improve life for people in Prince Albert. Joanne Renkas' story illustrates how community development and personal development can take parallel tracks.

In 2001, Renkas was a single mom working as a payroll clerk at the Northern Lights Casino in Prince Albert. That same year, she became a member of Homeworks Housing Co-op, one of several housing projects established by River Bank. Renkas represented her co-op on the Board of Directors, serving as Chair of the River Bank Board for three years. It gave her opportunities to develop, both personally and professionally.

With funding from the three levels of government, River Bank purchased and renovated two apartment buildings, creating 34 units for low-income families and partnering with Children's Choice Child Care Co-operative and the provincial Kids First program to build and operate a licensed daycare in the building. River Bank also partnered with other organizations to establish Smart Families Food Co-op, which gives 200 families more buying power in their food purchases.

"My family and I benefited from River Bank's housing programs, and I was able to give back to the community, as we developed another housing co-op and 50 affordable housing units for low-income families. We also established the Recycle Store in partnership with Habitat for Humanity," she notes. "And, the skills I learned while serving on the Board assisted me as I moved forward to become a Human Resources Officer at Northern Lights Casino."

River Bank recently moved its offices from downtown to the West Flat Community Centre, closer to the community where most of its programming is focused. The organization is currently completing yet another housing project: five new duplex housing units for low-to-moderate-income families. The organization also provides employment to low-income people through the Recycle Store, housing construction and ongoing property management.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Brian Howell, River Bank Development Corporation, at 763-7457 or e-mail [illegible]; or
- Contact Warren McLeod, RECD, at 953-3226.

River Bank Development Corporation is building housing units for low-to-moderate income families in P.A.

Cover, top right: Joanne Renkas, past Chair of the River Bank Board of Directors..

CO-OP RESTORES FITNESS CENTRE TO HEALTH

When it came up for sale, about 100 people in Fort Qu'Appelle and area bought into the idea of owning the Valley Fitness Centre.

A few months after putting it up for sale, with no buyers on the horizon, the owner considered closing the centre, which did not sit well with many of her customers. They struck a committee, and after several meetings, the owner said she would either close the place, or they could buy it themselves – which they did, after consulting with Barry Gunther, a regional development co-ordinator for the department of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development, on how to establish a community service co-op. "It was a pleasure to work with such a committed and positive group," Gunther recalls. "They took a businesslike approach in determining whether it was viable to purchase the centre."

After determining that they could make a go of it, Valley Fitness Co-operative was incorporated as a not-for-profit co-op in April 2005, with approximately 100 members. Their faith has been rewarded. A steady stream of fitness buffs enabled the co-op to pay off debt owing on exercise equipment in the centre in a year-and-a-half.

"We have a strong core of loyal people from the town and surrounding area who want the place to go," says Harold Glowa, a Director for the co-operative. "We now have two instructors on contract offering classes, but all of the other work is done by volunteers, including the Board. The money that comes in is used to run the place and to buy more equipment."

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Barry Gunther, RECD Regina Regional office, at 787-2753, or
- Harold Glowa, Valley Fitness Co-operative Director, Lipton, at 336-2376.

> It was a pleasure to work with such a committed and positive group.
>
> – Barry Gunther, Regional Development Co-ordinator

Harold Glowa is a Director for the Valley Fitness Co-op in Fort Qu'Appelle.

ITRACKS SATELLITE OFFICE ON TRACK

The Itracks call centre in Kenaston conducts telephone surveys with people throughout Canada and the U.S.

When Itracks' research centre in Saskatoon began experiencing employee shortages, the company came calling – in rural Saskatchewan.

The result is the company's first satellite call centre, located in Kenaston, about a 45-minute drive from Saskatoon. Distance isn't much of an issue, of course, because the employees in Kenaston are connected to the Saskatoon office by Itracks' specialized software, and they're conducting telephone surveys with people all over Canada and the United States.

Itracks chose Kenaston after meeting with officials from several REDAs in the Saskatoon region, followed by several town hall meetings. Itracks President and CEO Dan Weber and other senior managers then spent several months evaluating a number of towns near Saskatoon on three main factors: community commitment, labour supply, and a space to house a call centre. While Kenaston best fit the three criteria, they were impressed by what they found throughout the region.

"We met some wonderful people and were encouraged by the spirit of so many of the towns' leaders who work so diligently on economic development initiatives," Weber says. He also suggested other businesses – such as manufacturing, welding and machining – could easily copy the Itracks approach. "Urban companies need to start looking outside of the city for solutions to employment shortages."

For the time being, the lobby of the curling rink in Kenaston has been converted to accommodate a 10-seat call centre. The centre began with 10 part-time employees, which later increased to 14. Weber has indicated he would like to see the centre eventually relocated within the town and the curling rink re-opened.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Jolene Vanthuyne, Itracks Vice President of Marketing, at 665 -5026, extension 207, or
- Visit www.itracks.com

> "Urban companies need to start looking outside of the city for solutions to employment shortages."
>
> – Itracks President and CEO Dan Weber

SOUTH WEST PARTNERSHIPS EASE LABOUR SHORTAGE

It's becoming a common theme among employers – a demanding recruitment process fails to turn up enough skilled labour to fill all of the available openings. That was the experience of Rem Enterprises, an agricultural equipment manufacturer operating in Swift Current for the past 40 years. In particular, Rem had difficulty filling vacancies on the welding production line, despite a cross-Canada search.

In late 2005, the company began looking at hiring immigrant workers. To learn more about the process, they joined the Labour Attraction and Retention Committee (LARC). LARC was formed earlier that year by the Swift Current Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with several businesses, community and economic development organizations, including the Southwest REDA and Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development, to address the growing labour shortage in southwest Saskatchewan.

Putting to use what she's learned as a member of LARC's Immigration subcommittee, Rem's Human Resources Manager Noreen Volk welcomed the first Filipino workers to the company in January 2007. "The workshops the committee organized were extremely helpful in understanding immigration programs and processes, and made my job much easier," says Volk.

The committee is also working on a settlement plan that employers can use as a guide in welcoming immigrant workers to the community. "The more welcoming we are, and the more we can help them become involved, the more likely these workers are to stay in our community."

Becoming a member of LARC, she adds, has enabled Rem to be proactive in its hiring practices, including participating in four job fairs outside the region in 2006, with another three already planned for 2007. "Through LARC, we keep our finger on the pulse of the labour situation and all of the initiatives in place for addressing shortages. I encourage other employers experiencing labour shortages to join LARC."

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Dianne Sletten, RECD, at 778-8416; or
- Call the Swift Current Chamber of Commerce at 773-7268.

Swift Current's Labour Attraction and Retention Committee is welcoming immigrant workers to the region.

SWEET SUCCESS FOR HOWLAND'S HONEY

Howland's Honey may be smooth, but the story behind its producer contains plenty of setbacks, twists and turns.

Wink Howland began his beekeeping venture in 1980 on a quarter section near Good Spirit Provincial Park. With help from the provincial Farmstart program, he purchased 25 honeybee colonies, which soon grew to 400 colonies, as customers headed for the park bought everything he could produce.

"In 1982, I decided to sell to the retail rather than the bulk market, so I applied for federal registration, which is required to grade and pack for retail outlets," Howland explains. "I began attending farmers' markets in Yorkton, Canora and Regina, and making presentations to wholesalers."

The 1980s proved to be a tough time, as honey prices plummeted. To avoid bankruptcy and support his "honey habit," Howland taught school for five years. At the same time, he started attending more farmer's markets and joined the Saskatchewan Food Processors Association, which provided funding for more retail presentations and demonstrations. However, Howland suffered another major setback in 1994 when he lost most of his bees over the winter. Again, he adjusted and diversified, switching to Saskatchewan-produced queen bees and developing the ability to raise his own queen stock for sale to other honey producers.

"My daughter became queen rearer while she was at university, and she and her husband joined the business after she graduated," says Howland. "Today, we produce approximately 200,000 pounds of honey annually from 600 colonies, and market most of it in the less volatile retail market."

In 1999, the Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) program, administered by RECD, assisted in the operation's expansion. The SBLA program encourages diversification of the Saskatchewan economy and supports community economic development by making funding available, through community-run organizations, to entrepreneurs.

"Organizations like the Farmers' Markets and Saskatchewan Food Processors Associations have certainly helped us. We're currently expanding our packing facility to further increase our retail sales and allow us to custom pack for other producers."

Howland also participates in RECD's SaskMade Program. SaskMade registers individuals and companies that are manufacturing value-added product(s) with over 50 per cent Saskatchewan content. The primary thrust of the program is for identification and promotion of Saskatchewan manufactured goods.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Howland Enterprises, Inc., Yorkton, at 783-7046 or e-mail whowland@accesscomm.ca; or
- Contact Diane Phillips, Saskatchewan Made Program, RECD, at 787-4707; or
- Contact Larry Caderma, Regional Program Co-ordinator, RECD, at 787-7207 regarding the SBLA program.

Wink Howland's 600 bee colonies near Good Spirit Provincial Park produce 200,000 pounds of honey each year.

COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Phone	Web/Email	Location
Mar. 4-10	REDA Week	787-7874	www.recd.gov.sk.ca	Saskatchewan
June 4-8	Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI) Conference	1-800-677-9930	www.brei.org	Regina
Sept. 15-18	Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) National Conference	244-5521	www.edac.ca admin@edac.ca	Saskatoon

Showcasing Saskatchewan to the world

The Saskatchewan Economic Development Association will co-host two events showcasing Saskatchewan to local, national and international delegates in 2007.

Growing From Within: "Thinking Regionally – Succeeding Globally" – the Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI) Conference will be held June 4 to 8 in Regina.

BREI 2007 conference streams:

- Building on competitive advantages;
- Fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Engaging leadership and effective governance.

Meet us in the Heart of Canada – the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) National Conference will be held September 15 to 18 in Saskatoon.

EDAC 2007 conference streams:

- Cultural Diversity;
- Dynamic Regional Economies; and
- Innovation, Industry, Technology.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Call BREI 2007 Conference Co-Chair Doug Howorko at (306) 787-2201; or
- E-mail: doug.howorko@gov.sk.ca
- Call EDAC 2007 Conference Co-Chair Ryan Bater at (306) 446-7506; or
- E-mail: rbater@redaalliance.ca; or

Nominations open for 2007 Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Award

Do you know an individual or a co-operative that has been an inspiration or has provided outstanding service to co-operatives and credit unions? If so, tell us by nominating them for the 2007 Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Award.

For a nomination package or more information, contact the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association at (306) 244-3702; e-mail sca@sask.coop; or visit www.sask.coop. Nominations close May 1, 2007.

Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development

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